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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/688,854

Applicant(s)

ROWE ET AL.

Examiner

Namitha Pillai

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 February 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10-14 and 17-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10-14 and 17-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The Examiner acknowledges Applicant's submission of Appeal Brief on 2/6/07. The arguments against the combination of U. S. Patent No. 5,971,271 (Wynn et al.), herein referred to as Wynn and U. S. Patent No. 6,905,409 B1 (Bradshaw) are persuasive. In view of these persuasive arguments, prosecution has been re-opened. All pending claims have been rejected as being obvious over prior arts disclosed in the field of gaming system.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-8, 10-14 and 17-19 and 25-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 5,971,271 (Wynn et al.), herein referred to as Wynn and U. S. Patent No. 6,554,707 B1 (Sinclair et al.), herein referred to as Sinclair.

Referring to claim 1, Wynn discloses a method of configuring a graphical user interface associated with an application executed by a computing device of a gaming system (column 2, lines 10-35). Wynn discloses that the gaming system includes at least one gaming device adapted to accept a wager by a player, present a game, and grant an award for predetermined winning events (column 5, lines 10-20), with casino type gaming system including wagers through coin input and jackpot winnings. Wynn

discloses providing a set of navigation selectable elements with Figure 20 displaying buttons that can be selected and navigated to functions. Wynn discloses accepting a first input from a given user of the gaming system, provided by the player (column 7, lines 30-35). Wynn discloses accepting a second input from an operator of the gaming system (column 2, lines 40-45), with the operator providing input based on customer service requirements. Wynn discloses providing a user identification associated with the given user, determining a user profile from the user identification, determining the information that the user is permitted to view in accordance with the user profile and displaying only the information the user is allowed to view, wherein the resulting display is customized to the user based at least in part upon the first input and second input (column 2, lines 35-45). All data that is displayed to the user is based on the user identification information that has been input in addition to help data that has been provided by the operator based on the user identification information allowing for a customized display that is viewable only by an identified user. Wynn discloses that the information displayed to the users are in response to ensuring proper identification of the users but Wynn does not explicitly disclose that the navigation elements are displayed based on the user profile. Sinclair discloses displaying a set of navigation selectable elements that the user is permitted to view in response to the user profile (column 15, lines 35-40). Sinclair also discloses that only these navigation selectable elements are displayed, which is only applicable to the user, with the resulting display customized based on user input along with the user profile (reference number 1710, Figure 17B). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the

invention to learn from Sinclair that the set of navigation selectable elements are displayed in response to user inputs and user profile. Wynn has disclosed a set of navigation selectable elements including customized information in Figure 20 but does not clearly disclose the association between identifying the user and displaying these navigation selectable elements. In view of Wynn disclosing the use of user profiles to determine what is displayed and disclosing of displaying a set of navigation selectable elements, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to learn from Sinclair to determine the displaying of navigation selectable elements based on the user input and user profile.

Referring to claims 2 and 5, Wynn and Sinclair disclose that the navigation selectable elements include container elements (Sinclair, Figure 13).

Referring to claim 3, Wynn and Sinclair disclose that the navigation selectable elements comprise application initiating elements (Sinclair, reference number 1706, Figure 17B), with the elements accessing applications that carry out functionalities.

Referring to claim 4, Wynn and Sinclair do not disclose that the navigation selectable elements are arranged in a hierarchical format. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to disclose arranging the elements in a hierarchical format. The hierarchical format for displaying information that is related to each other or have an association is well known where data that have a general association as is the case with the gaming system selectable elements can be more efficiently categorized and arranged in an hierarchical format to quickly access the

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necessary data. Hence, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to arrange the navigation selectable elements in a hierarchical format.

Referring to claim 6, Wynn and Sinclair do not disclose displaying the navigation selectable elements in a tree form. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to disclose displaying the elements in a tree form. The tree form for displaying information that is related to each other or have an association is well known where data that have a general association as is the case with the gaming system selectable elements can be more efficiently categorized and arranged in tree form to quickly access the necessary data. Hence, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to display navigation selectable elements in a tree form.

Referring to claim 7, Wynn and Sinclair discloses displaying the displayed navigation selectable elements in a form dependent upon the user profile (Wynn, column 2, lines 37-40 and Sinclair, column 15, lines 35-40), where Wynn has provided data that is based on user profile with the data representing navigation selectable elements that is obvious over Sinclair.

Referring to claim 8, Wynn and Sinclair discloses that the user profile is associated with a device, which displays the graphical user interface (Sinclair, column 4, lines 11-13).

Referring to claim 10, Wynn discloses a method of configuring a graphical user interface associated with an application executed by a computing device of a gaming system (column 2, lines 10-35). Wynn discloses that the gaming system includes at

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least one gaming device adapted to accept a wager by a player, present a game, and grant an award for predetermined winning events (column 5, lines 10-20), with casino type gaming system including wagers through coin input and jackpot winnings. Wynn discloses providing a set of navigation selectable elements with Figure 20 displaying buttons that can be selected and navigated to functions. Wynn discloses accepting a first input from a given user of the gaming system, provided by the player (column 7, lines 30-35). Wynn discloses accepting a second input from an operator of the gaming system (column 9, lines 20-30), with the operator being an employer of the user, providing input based on customer service requirements. Wynn discloses providing a user identification associated with the given user and determining a user profile from the user identification (column 2, lines 37-45). Wynn discloses determining an access point for the user based on the profile, the access point determining a portion of the information which are accessible to the user and a portion of the information which are not accessible to the user based on order thereof and displaying only information which are accessible to the user, wherein the resulting display is customized to the user based at least in part upon the first input and second input (column 2, lines 35-45). All data that is displayed to the user is based on the user identification information that has been input in addition to help data that has been provided by the operator based on the user identification information allowing for a customized display that is viewable only by an identified user. The access point of Wynn is the point at which user has provided identification information further allowing the user to view that is based on user identification that is provided. Wynn discloses that the information displayed to the

users are in response to ensuring proper identification of the users but Wynn does not explicitly disclose that the navigation elements are displayed based on the user profile. Sinclair discloses displaying a set of navigation selectable elements that the user is permitted to view in response to the user profile (column 15, lines 35-40). Sinclair also discloses that only these navigation selectable elements are displayed, which is only applicable to the user, with the resulting display customized based on user input along with the user profile (reference number 1710, Figure 17B). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to learn from Sinclair that the set of navigation selectable elements are displayed in response to user inputs and user profile. Wynn has disclosed a set of navigation selectable elements including customized information in Figure 20 but does not clearly disclose the association between identifying the user and displaying these navigation selectable elements. In view of Wynn disclosing the use of user profiles to determine what is displayed and disclosing of displaying a set of navigation selectable elements, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to learn from Sinclair to determine the displaying of navigation selectable elements based on the user input and user profile.

Referring to claim 11, Wynn and Sinclair discloses that the navigation selectable elements are arranged into one or more levels, and the access point comprises one of the levels (Sinclair, Figure 13), with the Figure displaying a level of selectable elements.

Referring to claim 12, Wynn and Sinclair discloses that the navigation selectable elements associated with one or more levels higher than the level with which the access

point is associated are not accessible to the user (Wynn, column 9, lines 20-25), where the supervisory level is associated with the access levels but is not accessible for other users and is a higher level in comparison to the other users, where the supervisor level allows for more access controls in comparison to the player and operator access levels.

Referring to claim 13, Wynn and Sinclair discloses determining a configuration for the navigation selectable elements based upon the user profile and displaying the navigation selectable elements in accordance with the configuration (Wynn, column 2, lines 37-40 and Sinclair, column 15, lines 35-40), where Wynn has provided data that is based on user profile with the data representing navigation selectable elements that is obvious over Sinclair.

Referring to claim 14, Wynn and Sinclair discloses determining if the user is restricted from viewing one or more of the navigation selectable elements based upon the user profile and preventing the display of those elements (Wynn, column 11, lines 42-46), with the users without club cards not being allowing to view elements based upon their identity of not being card holders.

Referring to claim 17, Wynn discloses a gaming system, with a computing device adapted to accept a first input from a given user of the gaming system (column 2, lines 10-35). Wynn discloses a second input from an operator of the gaming system (column 7, lines 30-35). Wynn discloses at least one gaming device associated with the computing device, the gaming device adapted to accept a wager by a player, present a game, and grant an award for predetermined winning events (column 5, lines 10-20), with casino type gaming system including wagers through coin input and jackpot

winnings. Wynn discloses providing a set of navigation selectable elements with Figure 20 displaying buttons that can be selected and navigated to functions. Wynn discloses at least one first user station and at least one second user station associated with the system for displaying information and for providing input to the computing device (column 2, lines 10-35), the stations including the player and concierge stations. Wynn discloses that the graphical user interface is adapted to display the information in a plurality of configurations dependent upon a configuration of a station on which the graphical user interface is displayed or a user profile and wherein the resulting display is customized to the user based at least in part upon the first input and second input (column 5, lines 1-30). All data that is displayed to the user is based on the user identification information that has been input in addition to help data that has been provided by the operator based on the user identification information allowing for a customized display that is viewable only by an identified user. The plurality of configurations is dependent on user data or profile data provided at a distinct work station, with the information displayed varying based on the user profile at a distinct workstation, thereby creating a plurality of configurations used for determining what is to be displayed. Wynn does disclose displaying gaming data but does not disclose the details of the element and layout of what is displayed. Sinclair discloses a graphical user interface for displaying the information, with a main window having a navigation viewport displaying one or more navigation selectable elements, one or more of the one or more navigation selectable elements comprising an application initiating element (reference number 1706, Figure 17B), and a data viewport arranged to display

information associated with an application initiated by selection of one of the one or more application initiating elements (reference number 1708, Figure 17B). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to learn from Sinclair to disclose the viewports with navigation selectable elements. Wynn does disclose displaying navigation selectable elements with the purpose of selecting and navigating to desired functions within the gaming system. The Figure 20 of Wynn also depicts various viewports. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to learn from Sinclair to disclose various viewports with distinct functionalities for displaying navigation selectable elements and information associated with these navigation selectable elements in viewports.

Referring to claim 18, Wynn and Sinclair discloses that a user station comprises a station having a touch-sensitive display and wherein the graphical user interface adapted to display one or more of the navigation selectable elements as user-selectable buttons (Sinclair, reference number 1706, Figure 17B and column 19, lines 25-26).

Referring to claim 19, Wynn and Sinclair discloses that the second user station includes mouse and keyboard input devices (Sinclair, Figure 18) but does not disclose that the graphical user interface is adapted to display the navigation selectable elements in a tree form. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to disclose displaying the elements in a tree form. The tree form for displaying information that is related to each other or have an association is well known where data that have a general association as is the case with the gaming system selectable elements can be more efficiently categorized and arranged in tree

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form to quickly access the necessary data. Hence, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to display navigation selectable elements in a tree form.

Referring to claim 25, Wynn and Sinclair discloses that the location of one or more elements of the graphical user interface is device specific (Wynn, column 2, lines 37-40 and Sinclair, reference number 1706, Figure 17B), where Wynn has provided display data that is based on user interaction with a specific device with the data representing navigation selectable elements that is obvious over Sinclair.

Referring to claim 26, Wynn and Sinclair discloses that the location of one or more elements of the graphical user interface is user specific (Wynn, column 2, lines 37-40 and Sinclair, column 4, lines 11-13), where Wynn has provided display data that is based on user profile with the data representing navigation selectable elements that is obvious over Sinclair.

Referring to claim 27, Wynn and Sinclair discloses changing the layout based on user data but does not disclose that the location of the one or more elements of the graphical user interface depends on whether a particular user is left or right handed. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to disclose that the location of the elements depends on whether a particular user is left or right handed. Wynn and Sinclair are clearly concerned with the layout of the displayed information, wherein providing means for changing layout configuration based on user data and user preferences (column 11, lines 50-60 and column 2, lines 40-45). The user profile containing user related information would also contain user related data

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such as whether a particular user is left or right handed where this data is used for further customizing the display to the desire of the user. Hence, it would have been obvious to provide this further customization to meet the needs of the users, which is the objective of Wynn and Sinclair.

Referring to claim 28, Wynn and Sinclair disclose that one or more of the one or more navigation selectable elements comprise a level navigation button (Sinclair, reference number 1706 and 1708, Figure 17B), with the buttons referring to a distinct level where data is accessed.

Referring to claim 29, Wynn and Sinclair discloses that the level navigation button is not made available to all users of the gaming system (Wynn, column 2, lines 37-40), where Wynn has provided display data that is based on user profile, with data being made available to certain users, with the data representing navigation selectable elements.

Referring to claim 30, Wynn and Sinclair discloses that at least some users of the gaming system are not permitted to change the configuration of the graphical user interface (Wynn, column 11, lines 43-48) with non club card holders not being able to access a graphical user interface for configuration with concierge aid.

Referring to claim 31, Wynn and Sinclair discloses that user profile comprises a common user profile shared by a plurality of users of the gaming system (Wynn, column 2, lines 38-45), with Wynn teaching a common user profile of club card holders shared by a plurality of users.

Referring to claim 32, Wynn discloses a method of configuring a graphical user interface associated with a gaming system (column 7, lines 30-35). Wynn discloses that the gaming system includes at least one gaming device adapted to accept a wager by a player, present a game, and grant an award for predetermined winning events (column 5, lines 10-20), with casino type gaming system including wagers through coin input and jackpot winnings. Wynn discloses providing a set of navigation selectable elements with Figure 20 displaying buttons that can be selected and navigated to functions. Wynn discloses accepting a first input from a given user of the gaming system, provided by the player (column 7, lines 30-35). Wynn discloses accepting a second input from an operator of the gaming system (column 9, lines 20-30), with the operator being an employer of the user, providing input based on customer service requirements. Wynn discloses providing a user identification associated with the given user, determining a first user profile from the user identification (column 2, lines 42-45), where upon providing user identification information profile data associated with that user is accessed and displayed to the user. Wynn discloses that the first user profile being determined from a set of user profiles, wherein at least one of the user profiles comprises a common user profile shared by a plurality of users of the gaming system, with the user profile being one of many user profiles with these profiles representing as the stored data of information that is associated with the user and further common profile being the card holder profile that is applicable to a plurality of users (column 4, lines 50-55). Wynn discloses determining the information that the user is permitted to view in accordance with the user profile and displaying only the information the user is

allowed to view, wherein the resulting display is customized to the user based at least in part upon the first input and second input (column 2, lines 35-45). All data that is displayed to the user is based on the user identification information that has been input in addition to help data that has been provided by the operator based on the user identification information allowing for a customized display that is viewable only by an identified user. Wynn discloses that the information displayed to the users are in response to ensuring proper identification of the users but Wynn does not explicitly disclose that the navigation elements are displayed based on the user profile. Sinclair discloses displaying a set of navigation selectable elements that the user is permitted to view in response to the user profile (column 15, lines 35-40). Sinclair also discloses that only these navigation selectable elements are displayed, which is only applicable to the user, with the resulting display customized based on user input along with the user profile (reference number 1710, Figure 17B). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to learn from Sinclair that the set of navigation selectable elements are displayed in response to user inputs and user profile. Wynn has disclosed a set of navigation selectable elements including customized information in Figure 20 but does not clearly disclose the association between identifying the user and displaying these navigation selectable elements. In view of Wynn disclosing the use of user profiles to determine what is displayed and disclosing of displaying a set of navigation selectable elements, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to learn from Sinclair to determine the displaying of navigation selectable elements based on the user input and user profile.

3. Claims 20-24 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wynn, Sinclair and Bradshaw.

Referring to claim 20, Wynn and Sinclair do not disclose a gaming system account system. Bradshaw disclose that the graphical user interface is associated with a gaming system accounting system (Bradshaw, column 3, lines 37-42). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to learn from Bradshaw to disclose a gaming system accounting system. Wynn and Sinclair disclose a gaming system, involving collecting of money wagers and dispensing winnings which would need a gaming system account system to keep track of the transactions. Therefore, one skilled in the art would have been motivated to learn from Bradshaw to include a gaming system account system.

Referring to claim 21, Wynn, Sinclair and Bradshaw discloses that the accounting system comprises a soft count system arranged to sort currency, vouchers, tickets, or any combination thereof that have been accepted by one or more gaming devices within the gaming system (Bradshaw, column 3, lines 34-37), with the cited example teaching the accounting system being used for sorting currency.

Referring to claim 22, Wynn, Sinclair and Bradshaw discloses verifying the authenticity of accepted vouchers or tickets and reconcile the accepted vouchers or tickets against those that have been recorded as having been received and paid by one or more gaming devices within the gaming system (Bradshaw, column 6, lines 44-50).

Referring to claim 23, Wynn, Sinclair and Bradshaw discloses that the accounting system is adapted for use by casino financial personnel and cashiers, wherein at least

one user profile for one cashier does not permit the display of soft count information to the cashier on the gaming system (Bradshaw, column 7, lines 15-25).

Referring to claim 24, Wynn, Sinclair and Bradshaw discloses accounting system comprises an audit system adapted to poll a host of the gaming system to confirm proper operation of the system (column 2, lines 52-57).

Referring to claim 33, Wynn and Sinclair do not disclose a soft count system. Bradshaw discloses a soft count system arranged to sort, reconcile and verify the authenticity of currency, vouchers, tickets, or any combination thereof that have been accepted by one or more gaming devices within the gaming system (column 3, lines 34-37), with the cited example teaching the accounting system being used for sorting currency, and wherein the accounting system is adapted for use by casino financial personnel and cashiers, wherein at least one user profile for one cashier does not permit the display of soft count information to the cashier on the gaming system (column 7, lines 15-25). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to learn from Bradshaw to disclose a soft count system. Wynn and Sinclair disclose a gaming system, involving collecting of money wagers and dispensing winnings which would need a soft count system to keep track of the transactions. Therefore, one skilled in the art would have been motivated to learn from Bradshaw to include a soft count system.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-8, 10-14 and 17-33 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. Responses to this action should be submitted as per the options cited below: The United States Patent and Trademark Office requires most patent related correspondence to be: a) faxed to the Central Fax number (571-273-8300) b) hand carried or delivered to the Customer Service Window (located at the Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314), c) mailed to the mailing address set forth in 37 CFR 1.1 (e.g., P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450), or d) transmitted to the Office using the Office's Electronic Filing System.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Namitha Pillai whose telephone number is (571) 272-4054. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeza can be reached on (571) 272-4048.

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Namitha Pillai
Assistant Examiner
Art Unit 2173
June 7, 2007


TADESSE HAILU
PRIMARY EXAMINER